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Message Text

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51
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 AID-20 IO-14 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SR-02 ORM-03 NIC-01 EUR-25 DRC-01 /156 W
---------- 080940
R 161030Z APR 74
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2416
INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AMCONSUL UDORN
AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI
CINCPAC
DIA

UNCLAS BANGKOK 6118

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, TH, VN
SUBJ: SANYA ON NORTH VIETNAM AND A NATIONAL REFERENDUM

FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION OF PRIME MINISTER SANYA THAMMASAK'S APRIL 16 NEWS CONFERENCE. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST ARE HIS REMARKS ON RELATIONS WITH NORTH VIETNAM AND ON DR. PUAL UNGPHAKON'S PROPOSAL TO HOLD A NATIONAL REFERENDUM TO APPROVE THE CONSTITUTION.

REPORTER: YOU HAVE ORDERED THE RELEASE OF PERSONS ALLEGED OF DISHONEST PRACTICES IN CONSCRIPTION OF ABLE-BODIED MEN FOR MILITARY SERVICE. ARE THERE ANY LEFT WHO HAVE NOT BEEN RELEASED YET?

SANYA: NONE ARE LEFT. THEY HAVE BEEN RELEASED FROM DETENTION IN CUSTODY BUT SHOULD THE AUTHORITIES INTERROGATING THEM CONSIDER THAT THE CHARGES PREFERRED AGAINST THEM HAVE SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE SUBSTANTIATING THE CHARGES, THEN CASES WILL BE FILED IN A COURT OF LAW. PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT THEY HAVE NOT BEEN RELEASED AS INNOCENT PERSONS, BUT
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THAT LEGAL ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST THEM IF THERE IS

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SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE SUBSTANTIATING THE CHARGES PREFERRED
AGAINST THEM.

REPORTER: A REPORT PUBLISHED IN "THE NATION" LAST
SATURDAY STATED THAT KHUN THANAT KHOMAN HAS BEEN ENTRUSTED
WITH THE HOLDING OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH HANOI IN ORDER TO
NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH THAT COUNTRY.

SANYA: NOT YET, NOT YET. THAT WAS A REMARK MADE ONLY.

REPORTER: WHAT ACTION OR MOVE WILL WE MAKE?

SANYA: I HAVE NO STATEMENT TO MAKE AND YOU SHOULD NOT
MENTION THE SUBJECT WHICH CONCERNS FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
THAT IS VERY DELICATE, THEREFORE ANY TALK OR COMMENT MIGHT
EASILY CREATE MISUNDERSTANDING. I WISH TO INFORM YOU, AND
THERE IS NO NEED FOR YOU TO TAKE ANY NOTES, THAT THIS
GOVERNMENT HAS GOOD INTENTIONS TOWARD EVERY AND ALL COUNTRIES
THAT HAVE NO EVIL INTENTIONS TOWARD US. WE CONSIDER THAT
THIS POLICY IS THE BEST AT PRESENT. REGARDLESS WHETHER
ANY COUNTRY HAS POLITICAL IDEALS OR A SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT
THAT DIFFERS FROM OURS, WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS FOR IT NOT
TO BE AN ENEMY. THAT IS ALL WE WANT. IF THERE IS NO ENMITY,
IT IS HAPPY AND CONTENTED AND WE ARE HAPPY AND CONTENTED.
SHOULD WE HAVE CONTACTS WITH HANOI AND WITH RED CHINA,
TERRORISTS IN OUR COUNTRY MIGHT VANISH AUTOMATICALLY.

REPORTER: IN WHAT FORM WILL WE MAKE CONTACTS?

SANYA: I CANNOT INFORM YOU OR IT WOULD NOT BE POLICY.
THERE ARE WAYS BY WHICH TO MAKE CONTACTS BUT I HAVE NOT
DECIDED YET WHICH WOULD BE THE BEST.

REPORTER: WILL YOU ENDEAVOR TO MAKE CONTACT DURING YOUR
PRESENT TERM OF OFFICE AS PRIME MINISTER?

SANYA: VERY LITTLE TIME IS LEFT NOW.

REPORTER: DO YOU THINK THAT THERE WILL BE TIME
ENOUGH FOR YOU TO MAKE CONTACT?
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SANYA: I BELIEVE THAT THERE WILL BE TIME TO MAKE
PRELIMINARY MOVES AND SHOULD THE NEXT GOVERNMENT APPROVE
THIS POLICY IT WOULD CONTINUE IT AND IT MIGHT ACHIEVE SUCCESS
SOONER OR LATER.

REPORTER: IN THE PAST WE PROCLAIMED WE WOULD AVOID ANY
ATTITUDE THAT IS UNFRIENDLY TOWARD IT BUT NO RESULTS WERE

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OBTAINED AT ALL. WHAT OTHER MOVES COULD WE MAKE?

SANYA: MOVES MUST BE MADE ON BOTH SIDES. ISN'T THAT TRUE? NO RESULTS CAN BE MADE TO PLAYING TENNIS OR BADMINTORN WHEN THERE MUST BE TWO SIDES PLAYING IN A GAME.

REPORTER: DO YOU THINK THAT CONTACTS MADE THROUGH THE RED CROSS WOULD OBTAIN RESULTS?

SANYA: THAT WOULD BE THE BEST WAY. THROUGH THE RED CROSS WOULD BE THE BEST WAY BECAUSE IT WOULD BE HUMANITARIAN AND HUMANITARIAN PROJECTS ARE PROJECTS THAT CONCERN HUMANITY. ISN'T THAT TRUE?

REPORTER: IN REGARD TO DR. PUAI UNGPHAKON'S VIEW THAT A REFERENDUM SHOULD BE HELD ON THE CONSTITUTION...

SANYA: I HAVE NO VIEW YET BECAUSE IT IS A MATTER REQUIRING DEEP STUDY IN ORDER TO OBTAIN RESULTS. CONSIDERATION HAS TO BE PAID TO THE ALLOCATION NEEDED BECAUSE TO HOLD A REFERENDUM IS NO DIFFERENT FROM ORGANIZING A GENERAL ELECTION.

REPORTER: WOULD IT NEED MUCH TIME?

SANYA: IT WOULD REQUIRE TIME AND MONEY TO A CONSIDERABLE EXTENT. BUT THE PRINCIPLE OF THE PLAN IS GOOD THROUGH I NEED TIME TO CONSIDER PUTTING IT IN PRACTICE. IT IS HOWEVER UP TO THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY TO MAKE A FINAL DECISION BECAUSE THE CONSTITUTION WOULD HAVE TO BE AMENDED SHOULD A REFERENDUM BE HELD.

REPORTER: WILL YOU ENDEAVOR TO PERSUADE HANOI TO ACCEPT

VIETNAMESE REFUGEES?

SANYA: WE ARE MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO PERSUADE IT ALREADY BUT IT SAYS IT IS NOT READY YET.

REPORTER: WILL WE TRY TO APPEAL TO IT AGAIN?

SANYA: WE MUST WAIT TO SEE WHAT IS WHAT FIRST.
KINTNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRIME MINISTER, CONSTITUTION, GOVERNMENT REFORM, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BANGKO06118
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740087-0567
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740441/aaaabkku.tel
Line Count: 163
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: NDUM TO APPROVE THE CONSTITUTION.
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 SEP 2002 by BryanSD>; APPROVED <26 DEC 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

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Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SANYA ON NORTH VIETNAM AND A NATIONAL REFERENDUM FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION OF PRIME MINISTER
TAGS: PFOR, TH, VN, (SANYA THAMMASAK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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